



Project n° 031724

C.H.E.R.M.

Cultural Heritage Enhancement in the Region of Maghreb
*Integrated approach to the Mediterranean Prehistoric cultural heritage:
the case of Maghreb.*

Specific Support Action

INCO-MPC/SSA-2

Final Report

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Project coordinator name: Prof. Alfredo Coppa

Project coordinator organisation name: University of Rome “La Sapienza”

Publishable executive summary

The CHERM Project idea aims at the promotion of a Euro-Mediterranean scientific network for stimulating multidisciplinary collaborations on Maghrebian prehistoric studies. This region is a key area where to further the understanding of Plio-Pleistocene population dynamics of hominins, very much influenced by climatic and environmental factors which have shaped the Maghreb alternatively as a geographical frontier for the peopling of Europe, or a *cul de sac* where micro-evolutionary events occurred independently. North African prehistory is a matter of great interest and several national and international teams are developing geo-archaeological surveys and excavations, though the need of both sharing information and expertise is something to keep running, as to analyze human evolution through a global approach that focuses on the changing of the environment and geography throughout time, in particular in a region trapped between the sea on one side and the progressive desertification of the Sahara on the other.

The CHERM project is oriented towards both a scientific and a public target: the scientific target is related to the development of a pan Euro-Mediterranean network capable of stimulating multidisciplinary collaborations on Maghrebian prehistoric studies, exchanging expertise in the different disciplines, sharing objectives and methodologies of research, and stimulating new collaborations between the partners involved. The public target is related to the raising of public awareness of the importance of defending and evaluating the cultural prehistoric heritage, by making this subject more appealing and accessible through public presentations in occasion of the partnership meetings in the Maghreb, and by providing for an interactive web-site for public dissemination.

The results achieved can be summarised as following:

1) **The Partnership:** The consortium so far involved is formed by multi-disciplinary teams from Prehistory, Palaeoecology, Geo-archaeology, Physical Anthropology and Anthro-po-genetics sciences. Almost all the research units were already active in the territory before the beginning of the project, through consolidated co-operation with the national organisms of protection of cultural heritage, developed also thanks to bilateral agreements and scientific protocols. More partners adhered to the consortium already consolidated in the previous CHERK project. The complete list of partners is the following: University of Rome «La Sapienza», Université de Kenitra «Ibn Tofail» (Morocco), Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologique et du Patrimoine – INSAP (Morocco), University of Naples «Federico II», Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (Malta),

Gibraltar Museum (Gibraltar - UK), University of Cambridge (UK), Université de Perpignan «Via Domitia» (France), Musée National de Histoire Naturelle (France), Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut – DAIInst (Germany), Centre National de Recherches Préhistoriques, Anthropologiques et Historiques - CNRPAH (Algeria), Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique – INRS (Mauritania), Institute National du Patrimoine - INP (Tunisie), The Natural History Museum - Human Origins Group - Department of Palaeontology (UK), King’s College London - The Sahara Megalake Project (UK), University of Poitiers (France), Progetto italo-tunisino di ricerche preistoriche ad Hergla - Dipartimento di Archeologia - Università di Bologna, University of Huelva (Spain), University of Murcia (Spain), Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra – University of Granada(Spain), Biological Anthropology Department, Medical Research Division, National Research Centre, - Cairo, Egypt.

2) **Collaborative activities:** thematic meetings, namely the ARCHEO-GIS, the PALAEO-ENVIRON and the BIO-ARCHIVE, were the tools through which exploiting the strategy of the project, offering opportunities for meetings and scientific round tables between international experts and local Maghrebian scientists of same areas of interest. These meetings were occasions for:

- Presenting unpublished scientific results; work in progress of the respective projects of different teams; ideas for future research investment in the area and beyond;
- Debating about standard methodologies for recording, analysis, and management of data, towards the definition of agreed protocols to be promoted by the local national agencies;
- Disseminating the potentials of use and application of high technologies *in loco* in the study of both the biological and material records, in particular the most delicate and rare ones, not to risk to expatriate the goods, on the contrary investing on a local expertise to sustain national efforts towards the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage;
- Enabling mutual exchanges between African and European Institutions by developing new networks, and progressively enlarging the partnership to other North African and European Institutions;
- Raising reciprocal interests in the partners’ different topics, all intersected in the prehistoric studies, but still based in different departments and often using specific “channels” for the publishing of data that does not ease the dissemination of the information.

During the workshops, discussions on methodologies of approach and analysis produced provisional documents of guidelines that will serve further occasions of discussion, beyond the end of the Project. During the Bio-Anthropological workshop the consortium agreed to adhere to the

codebook produced by a NSF project “The Global History of Health”, as to create comparable databanks, compatible with the wide Euro-American consortium that is already applying it.

3) Public dissemination:

The CHERM website <http://serverbau.bio.uniroma1.it/webcherm/> will continue to publicise the project activities, by offering general support material to understand the purposes of the project, links to the participants’ contacts and institution webpage, and a wall to advertise events pertaining to the sphere of interest of the consortium, with particular reference to conferences, fieldworks, and latest published papers related to North African prehistory (Figure 1).



Fig. 1: *the CHERM meetings as platforms of discussion, information and sharing of expertise between the partners.*

In the days following to the final meeting in Kenitra (December 2008) we took advantage of the presence of various researchers that had attended the meeting to carry out some public conferences on topics related to our own research projects. These conferences, that were offered as part of the Master program "Techniques de Museologie, Gestion du patrimoine naturel et culturel et developpement touristique", in progress at that time at the University of Kenitra “Ibn Tofail”, were attended by some twenty graduate students of the above cited master. Some educational presentations on archaeology, GIS landscape analysis, and cultural resources management were offered by some participants to the Final Meeting. More in detail, Dr. Nespoulet and Prof. Debennah covered topics in archaeology related to their excavations in Morocco, Dr. Mulazzani presented the landscape study project of the Hergla region in Tunisia, and Mr. Genchi addressed topics related to GIS landscape analysis.

Section 1 – Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period

The Project's main objective was the development of a Pan-European and Northern African scientific consortium for building a strong and unified corporation of experts for:

- stimulating present and future activities in the prehistory of the Maghreb;
- disseminating new and innovative results and methodologies for a complex study of the prehistory of Northern Africa, where inter-disciplinarity becomes the rule and not the exception;
- discussing together with local administrations new measures to grow bigger public awareness of the importance of the protection of the national heritage, with particular emphasis on how to recognise and try to defend the prehistoric, more invisible heritage.

The tools were 3 thematic meetings (plus a final one, conclusive of the project) focused on the 3 main disciplines of prehistory, Palaeo-ecology, Archaeology and Biological Anthropology respectively. Each meeting hosted specialists of the topic who presented their researches in Northern Africa and who actively participated in the debates for the development of common methodologies for diffusing a more standard way of implementing such type of studies (from the field to lab analysis), as to better dialogue among the scientific community and to publicise the idea of eventually building a shared codebook to ease comparative studies, thus enabling more updated reviews also for a more public destination.

During the first year, 2 thematic meetings were implemented, the PALAEO-ENVIRON in Gibraltar and the BIO-ARCHIVE in Cagliari (I), and the consortium was enriched with the involvement of other partners, both from the Maghrebian and European side. Variations on the order and place of the meetings were related to unforeseeable reasons, in particular to the slowing down of partnership agreements with the two national institutions involved from the Algerian and Tunisian side, and in the case of Algeria, to the increased risk of terrorist attacks, after the latest blasts that have harmed the public safety of Algiers and the country in general. In the meantime, the Project coordinator could develop stronger relationships with both the Centre National de Recherches Préhistoriques, Anthropologiques et Historiques (CNRPAH) of Algiers and the INP of Tunis, by visiting the local offices, and developing the relationships in more formal agreements, which culminated in the final participation of Tunisian representatives from the INP of Tunis during the conclusive event of the project in Kenitra (December 2008).

The first meeting, the PALAEO-ENVIRON (Gibraltar, 9th-11th of March 2007), entitled *“Palaeo-ecological studies and methodologies in Maghrebian archaeology”*, was hosted by the Gibraltar Museum who supported both the logistic and scientific organisation of the event. The seat was chosen because of the strong impact of the Gibraltar team in palaeoecological studies of the Mediterranean basin, and in particular in the geomorphology of the Gibraltar Strait in the Late Pleistocene. New partners from the University of Huelva and the University of Murcia (Spain), and from the King’s College London (UK) were invited to present their researches, and to discuss common methodological guidelines to be applied in palaeoecological studies (see Section 2 for more details).

The second meeting, the BIO-ARCHIVE (Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy 27th-30th of September 2007), occurred in occasion of the XVII Congress of the Italian Anthropologists, in that particular occasion entitled to Mediterranean population matters. The Congress turned out to be a very good replacement for the meeting initially planned in Algeria, as a major platform of dissemination of the project to a wider scientific public. The CHERM meeting entitled *“From the Dig to the Lab. Guidelines of inventory and common procedures in the treatment and analysis of the fossil and sub-fossil specimens of the Maghreb, North Africa, and Euro-Mediterranean countries”* was officially hosted as a session of the congress, becoming the occasion to present the project objectives and results so far achieved to introduce the two main lectures given by Dr. Marta Mirazon Lahr (Cambridge University) about major issues on the modern human occupation of North Africa, and by Prof. Roberto Macchiarelli (University of Poitiers) and Dr. Luca Bondioli (University of Rome “La Sapienza”) on advanced non-invasive analytical technologies applied to the study of human fossils. New partners were involved in the meeting: they are the Natural History Museum of London, the Exploration Moléculaire de Maladies, Orphelines d'Origine Génétique of Tunis, and the Biological Anthropology Department, Medical Research Division, National Research Centre of Giza (Egypt) (see section 2 for more details).

The third meeting, the ARCHAEO-GIS (Kenitra, Morocco, 29th-30th of November 2008), was organised in concomitance with the conclusive conference of the project (WP5). During the meeting a common strategy for data collection was discussed that would permit the different research groups working in different Maghrebian regions to collect similar and consistent databases and therefore develop comparable GIS. Every research group that developed archaeological GIS presented their results. During the discussion, some points have been highlighted: first, the minor

changes that each group will have to adopt in the data collection in order to conform to general guidelines; second, the specifications that each group will have to hold to in the field in order to better respond to the different geopolitical situations, as well as more specific socio-economic requirements that the different territories are subject to. The following institutions participated to the meeting: University of Rome «La Sapienza», Université de Kenitra «Ibn Tofail» (Morocco), Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine – INSAP (Morocco), University of Naples «Federico II», Gibraltar Museum (Gibraltar - UK), Université de Perpignan «Via Domitia» (France), Musée National de Histoire Naturelle (France), Institute National du Patrimoine - INP (Tunisie), University of Bologna

The project development was measured through the implementation of the above meetings and the constant enrichment of the partnership. The meetings were occasion to involve experts of the subject and to engine new acquaintances that could produce new dynamics of collaboration, exchanges, and scientific relationships. The meetings were also occasions for young scholars to present their work and being put in touch with more senior scientists, therefore becoming a platform for doctoral or young post-doctoral students to perform their presentation in a more friendly environment than big congresses, having more space and attention to their specific research. The thematic meetings had an average participation of 12-15 people each time, which was indeed the right target for participants to know each other and develop relationships beyond the scientific sessions. The Gibraltar meeting invited 4 young scholars out of 13 participants to make presentation about their own work, 2 of which young women. The Cagliari meeting provided for 5 young scholars out of 16, 4 of which young women. Involving North African participants to European meetings was also a great opportunity for them to avoid the scientific isolation often caused by shortage of funds for their research mobility.

The slow down of the participation of the Maghrebian national agencies was compensated by the involvement of new participants from other states and institutions, and others are being contacted for keeping the partnership growing, according to the aim of the project of making the CHERM platform a point of reference in the dialogue between the European and North African institutions developing prehistoric studies in the Maghreb.

Section 2 – Workpackage progress of the period

NOTES: The following description follows the chronological implementation of the WPs and not the original order foreseen in the Appendix 1 of the project presentation approved in the contract.

Workpackage 1: MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The gathering of the Maghrebian consortium, as presented in the Appendix 1 of the contract, required longer than foreseen, which caused a delay in the progression of the activities being the first meeting foreseen in Algiers. As first meeting the PALAEO-ENVIRON (WP4) meeting in Gibraltar was therefore anticipated to March 2007. The BIO-ARCHIVE meeting (WP2) took place in Cagliari in September 2007. After a gap of activities due to the delay in administrative activities by the contractor partner, the University of Kenitra “Ibn Tofail”, the project continued after the permission by the EC officers of procrastinating the project until December 2008, confirmed in the “Amendment n° 1 to the contract no. INCO-CT-2006-031724” on the 8th of October 2008. The third meeting ARCHAEO-GIS (WP3) was organised in occasion of the FINAL meeting (WP5) in November-December 2008.

Management and coordination activities were implemented according to the partner’s respective schedule and rules. In addition to the foreseen project activities, the coordinator visited the Maghrebian partners from Tunis and Algiers to develop vis a vis relationships, followed by intense correspondence, through which putting the basis for bilateral agreements, preliminary to any sort of involvement in the Project consortium.

The Coordinator was in constant touch with the EC Programme’s scientific officer to inform about variations in the schedule of the activities, and to seek for suggestions on how to proceed with regards to some contractual requirements from the Moroccan partner.

The partners involved have all supported the activities by contributing both scientifically and by actively participating to the events. In the case of Gibraltar, a non contractual partner has hosted one of the meetings and assisted in the organisation/coordination of the event with own person-hours.

Workpackage 4: THE PALAEO-ENVIRON THEMATIC MEETING

The foreseen objectives of the meeting were a) to discuss common criteria for different teams to work with same strategies in different areas of the region, and b) to create further

possibilities for both European and Maghrebian scientists to meet and exchanging expertise, ideas and theories. The meeting indeed implemented all of the above objectives, focusing more on the Gibraltar/Moroccan region as starting point of discussion of methodologies and potentials of a geo-ecological survey strategy added to the usual archaeo-anthropological one, better known in the prehistoric studies. Participants to the thematic meeting *“Palaeo-ecological studies and methodologies in Maghrebian archaeology”* were: the coordinator the University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy) in the figure of Prof. Alfredo Coppa and Federica Crivellaro; the University of Kènitra “Ibn Tofail” (Morocco) with Prof. Mohammed Mehdi; the Gibraltar Museum (United Kingdom) with Dr. Clive Finlayson, Dr. Geraldine Finlayson and Dr. Darren Fa; the Musée National de Histoire Naturelle of Paris (France) with Dr. Roland Nespoulet; the University of Bologna (Italy) with Simone Mulazzani, the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) with Dr. Marta Mirazon Lahr; the University of Perpignan “Via Domitia” (France) with Prof. Andre Debenath; and the University of Poitiers (France) with Dr. Roberto Macchiarelli. New participants involved were: the University of Murcia with Dr. Noemi Fuentes and Prof. J.S. Carrión; the University of Huelva (Spain) with Prof. Joaquín Rodríguez, and the King’s College of London (UK) with Dr. Nick Drake (Figure 2).



Fig. 2: one of the presentations held during the Gibraltar PALAEO-ENVIRON meeting.

Workpackage 2: THE BIO-ARCHIVE THEMATIC MEETING

The Bio-Archive meeting was initially planned to be held in Algiers as the first of the series of thematic meetings, but both the slow down of the agreement between the coordinator and the national agency for the protection of the archaeological heritage, the Centre National de Recherches Préhistoriques, Anthropologiques et Historiques (CNRPAH), and the lack of security of the city for risk of terrorist attacks, caused the shift of the meeting in Cagliari (Italy) profiting of the Congress of the Italian Anthropologists, this year related to Mediterranean population matters. The new seat became the best place where to spam the project's publicity, stimulating new interest from other European partners there attending, and becoming a further occasion of encountering between scientists from different subjects.

Participants to the meeting were: the coordinator the University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Italy) in the figure of Prof. Alfredo Coppa and Federica Crivellaro; the University of Poitiers (France) with Prof. Roberto Macchiarelli; the "Sezione di Antropologia" Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico "Luigi Pigorini", Roma, Italia with Dr. Luca Bondioli, the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) with Prof. Marta Mirazon Lahr and Prof. Jay Stock; the "Biological anthropology Department" Medical Research Division, National Research Centre, El-Bohouth St., Giza, Egypt with Dr. Moushira Erfan Zaki; the Natural History Museum, Human Origins Group, Department of Palaeontology, London, UK with Dr. Louise Humphrey; the University of Napoli "Federico II", Italia with Pier Paolo Petrone; the University of Casablanca, Faculté des Sciences Aïn Choc, Morocco with Prof. Aicha Oujaa; the "Exploration Moléculaire de Maladies, Orphelines d'Origine Génétique" UR26/04, Tunis, Tunisie with Dr. Rym Kefi; the Museum of Cartago, Institut National du Patrimoine de Tunis, Tunisia with Dr. Sihem Roudesli-Chebbi; the University of Rome "Sapienza", Roma, Italy with Dr. Francesca Candilio, Michaela Lucci PhD and Rita Vargiu PhD; the University of Bologna with Dr. Simone Mulazzani; the Université de Paris 1 / CNRS UMR 7041, Paris, France with Dr. Olivia Munoz.

The discussion for the definition of the structure of an inventory of the human skeletal record was implemented through the workshop *"From the Dig to the Lab. Guidelines of inventory and common procedures in the treatment and analysis of the fossil and sub-fossil specimens of the Maghreb, North Africa, and Euro-Mediterranean countries"*, and it was decided unanimously that

the idea of developing an electronic inventory would be the best to manage and update the information (Figure 3).



Fig. 3: *BIO-ARCHIVE Workshop “From the Dig to the Lab”, Hotel Mamora, Cagliari (Italy) September 28-30 2007*

It was agreed to follow the NESPOS guidelines provided by the European project “TNT. The Neanderthal Tool” that is providing open source facilities for the data management and monitored access (see http://www.the-neanderthal-tools.org/?page_id=13). The NESPOS support already offers a list of requirements for collections to be organised into the database. The University of Poitiers, having been a partner of the TNT project, has taken the responsibility of developing the networking for the construction and updating of the CHERM bio-archive, and it is now working on the development of such tool, to be presented as main deliverable of the WP2 in the final meeting. For a list on the participants involved in the meeting see attached program of the Bio-Archive meeting in Appendix 1 of the report). In addition to the meeting program, the Project hosted Prof. Richard Steckel from the Ohio State University (USA) who presented a NSF-funded project “*The Global History of Health*” (see <http://global.sbs.ohio-state.edu>), currently in progress in Europe, to publicize the project objectives and activities in view of a potential extension to the North African scientific community.

Workpackage 3: THE ARCHEO-GIS THEMATIC MEETING

The WP3(ARCHEO-GIS meeting) was hosted by the University of Kenitra “Ibn Tofail” between 29th-30th of November 2008. The following institutions participated to the meeting:

University of Rome «La Sapienza», Université de Kenitra «Ibn Tofail» (Morocco), Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologique et du Patrimoine – INSAP (Morocco), University of Naples «Federico II», Gibraltar Museum (Gibraltar - UK), Université de Perpignan «Via Domitia» (France), Musée National de Histoire Naturelle (France), Institute National du Patrimoine - INP (Tunisie), University of Bologna (Figure 4).



Fig. 4: *ARCHEO-GIS Meeting, Hotel Mamora, Kenitra (Morocco) November 29-30 2008*

During the meeting a common strategy for data collection was discussed that would permit the different research groups working in different Maghrebian regions to collect similar and consistent databases and therefore develop comparable GIS. Every research group that developed archaeological GIS presented their results. During the discussion, some points have been highlighted: first, the minor changes that each group will have to adopt in the data collection in order to conform to general guidelines; second, the specifications that each group will have to hold to in the field in order to better respond to the different geopolitical situations, as well as more specific socio-economic requirements that the different territories are subject to.

Workpackage 5: THE FINAL MEETING

The FINAL MEETING (WP5) was hosted by the University of Kenitra “Ibn Tofail” between 30th of November – 1st of December 2008. The following institutions participated to the meeting: Alfredo Coppa and Francesca Candilio Università di Roma – “Sapienza” (Italy), Mohammed Medhi University of Kenitra «Ibn Tofail» (Morocco), Abdeslam Mikdad and Ben

Nacer Abdelwahed Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologique et du Patrimoine – INSAP (Morocco), Pierpaolo Petrone University of Naples «Federico II»(Italy), Darren Fa Gibraltar Museum (Gibraltar - UK), University of Cambridge (UK), André Debenath Université de Perpignan «Via Domitia» (France), Roland Nespoulet Musée National de Histoire Naturelle (France), Louiza Aoudia Centre National de Recherches Préhistoriques, Anthropologiques et Historiques - CNRPAH (Algeria), Roudesli Sihem and Ridha Boussoffara Institute National du Patrimoine - INP (Tunisie), Simone Mulazzani Progetto italo-tunisino di ricerche preistoriche ad Hergla - Dipartimento di Archeologia – University of Bologna(Italy), Francesco Genchi University of Bologna(Italy), Moushira Erfan Zaki Biological Anthropology Department, Medical Research Division, National Research Centre, - Cairo, Egypt, Aicha Oujaa Département de Géologie Faculté des Sciences Aïn Choc Université de Casablanca. Alongside the official partners, the works were attended also by: Badaoui Brahim Ministère de Culture Rabat, Nouredine Meftah and Abderrahim Mohib Délégation Régionale de Culture Kénitra, Douira Allal University of Kenitra «Ibn Tofail», Benkhouya Abdelhafid, Journaliste MAP, Laghechoua Omar Espace communication, Slimane El Ouali Photographe, Fadoua Nekkak student of Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologique et du Patrimoine – INSAP (Morocco), Salma Benouaicha, Tomy Mouhamed Ousmane and Aicha Benzizoune student of the Master program "Techniques de Museologie, Gestion du patrimoine naturel et culturel et developpement touristique" Faculty of sciences University of Kenitra «Ibn Tofail», and by other undergraduate students interested in attending the conference (Figure 5).



Fig. 5: *Final Meeting, Hotel Mamora, Kenitra (Morocco) November 30 to December 1 2008*

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the results obtained by all the attending research groups either on the various Maghrebian contexts and more in general on North Africa (Figures 6 and 7).



Fig. 6: *Final Meeting, Prof. Andée Debennath communication*



Fig. 7: *Final Meeting, Dr. Pier Paolo Petrone communication*

These presentations, mainly related to published and unpublished data, were intended to better and more thoroughly integrate the various groups. The structure of the presentations was more like a round-table than a regular congress, in the sense that during the presentation it was possible to intervene (and it occurred frequently) to ask for better explanations, bring in opinions and personal comments that would be useful to better programming future researches. This

discussion was particularly important since one of the targets of our project was to stimulate a more profound interaction among the partners. Such integration would have been even more thorough if it had been possible an exchange of research young personnel among partners during their field activities, as proposed although not in line with the specific targets and unfeasible in economic terms because of the economic straits both in Europe and in the Maghreb, in particular during the last two years. In this sense, the meetings of the research groups represented the only real possibility for an active exchange of experiences, more so if they are not as traditional congresses but instead are articulated in a more informal was, as our FINAL MEETING (WP5).

Most of the participants to the FINAL MEETING (WP5) had already been invited to the “*Colloque International Première édition: Préhistoire maghrébine*” that took place at *Tamanrasset* (Algeria) between 5th and 7th November 2007. In that situation, they were able to present their results, but within a 20-minute time limit and with few minutes for the discussion. Therefore, the strength of this meeting was to provide an update of the research results by also granting much more time for an immediate interaction and developed discussion.

Since the FINAL meeting was attended by the totality of the physical anthropologists operating in the research units in the Maghreb: Sihem Roudesli (Tunisia), Louiza Aoudia (Algeria) and Ben Nacer Abdelwahed and Aicha Oujaa (Morocco) and more in general in North Africa Moushira Erfan Zaki (Egypt), and by some of the European physical anthropologists who developed research in North Africa, a part of the meeting was devoted to an in-depth analysis of the BIO-ARCHIVE (WP3) specific topics (Figure 8).



Fig. 8: *Final Meeting, the North African and European Physical Anthropologists*

In particular, an in-depth discussion was dedicated to the application of new methodologies for the study of human fossil remains, and, on the other side, to develop guidelines for cataloguing human skeletal remains from pre-protohistoric archaeological contexts. As regards to the first point, we discussed the NESPOS platform, as agreed upon during the BIO-ARCHIVE meeting (WP3) in Cagliari (Figure 9).



Fig. 9: *Final Meeting, Prof. Alfredo Coppa communication*

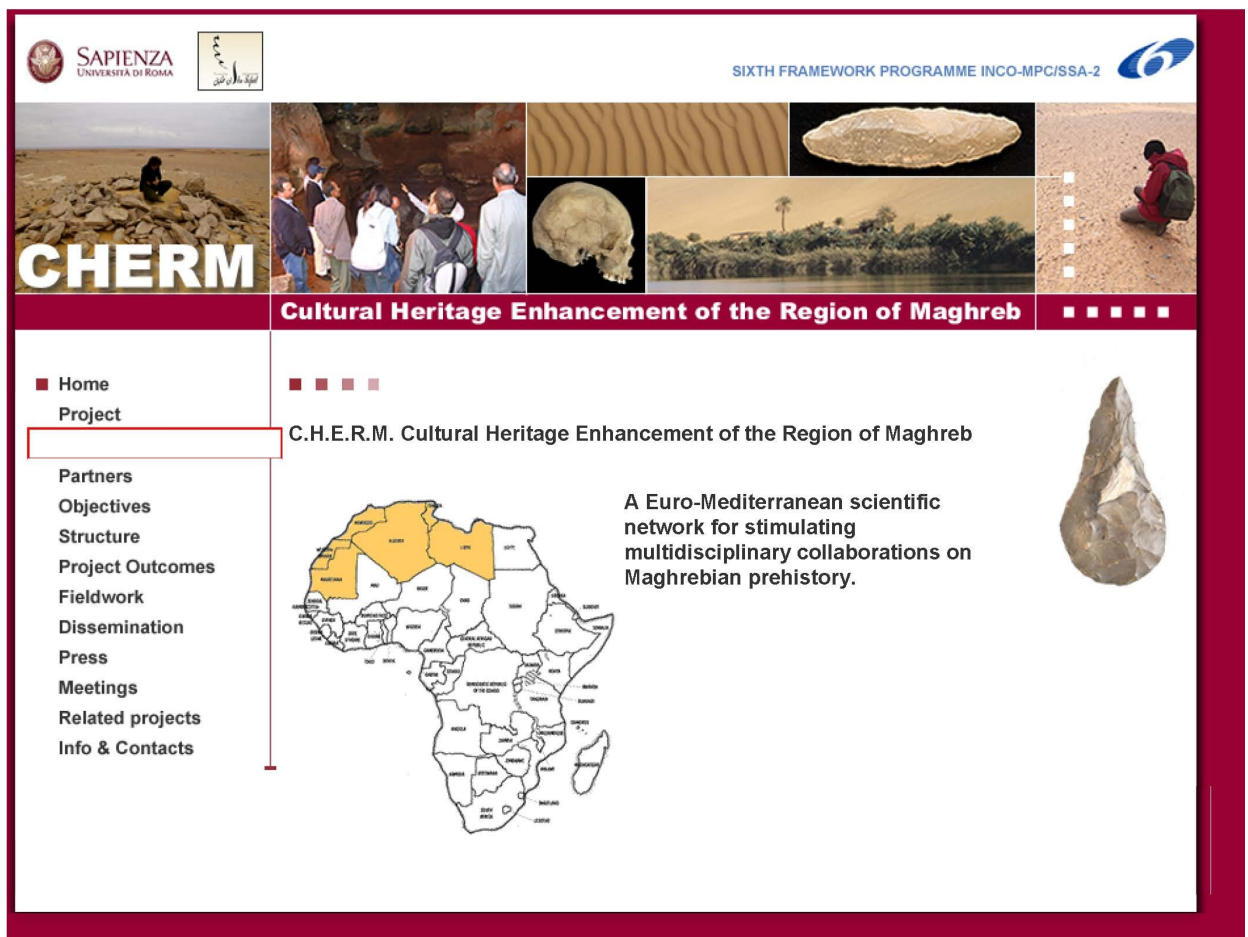
For the second point, we decided to incorporate the indications suggested in the NSF-funded project “The Global History of Health”. They had been initially presented at the BIO-ARCHIVE meeting (WP3) in Cagliari by the project coordinator, Prof. Richard Steckel, who foresaw extending to North Africa the project that is currently in progress in Europe. The guidelines have been received and accepted in their general terms, even though they will have to be modified to fit in specific North African contexts. After the presentation of the specific project, we moved to a more general discussion on the perspectives of integration. All the groups agreed on the need of common targets and methodologies, aimed at a consistent and tighter integration among groups and that also has to go through the development of partnerships. The experience acquired first during the CHERK project and now during the CHERM, permitted to develop strong partnerships; nonetheless, it is clear that these projects have to be considered closed for future developments. The possibility to carry out periodic and thematic meetings remains a primary fundamental goal; nonetheless, without a simultaneous possibility to obtain funding for research we can face the objective risk of a paralysis of the whole system. For these reasons, after a thorough and articulated

discussion, the decision has been taken that in case there were the possibility to submit a new SSA, such hypothesis should not be pursued. At the same time, the Coordinator has been entrusted to evaluate alternative options that may grant the possibility to strengthen the partnership with thematic meeting from one side, and on the other side that may grant the research groups to obtain funds to continue their specific researches

Workpackage 6: DISSEMINATION

The project web site <http://serverbau.bio.uniroma1.it/webcherm/> was one of the deliverables of the CHERM, launched during the final meeting as to both publicise the results of such a WP and to have the chance to incorporate potential suggestions/objections for the site to become online (Figure 10).

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<http://www.reframe.it/cherm/> [30/11/2008 16.12.30]

Fig. 10: Home page of CHERM Web Site

A press release was spammed for publicity of the PALAEO-ENVIRON meeting in Gibraltar and both TV and newspapers reported the meeting in the local news.

For the meeting in Cagliari, the BIO-ARCHIVE workshop was advertised in the University of Cagliari website. The CHERM meeting was included as one of the sessions of the congress which became a very good platform of scientific publicity.

In the days following to the final meeting in Kenitra we took advantage of the presence of various researchers that had attended the meeting to carry out some public conferences on topics related to our own research projects. These conferences, that were offered as part of the Master program "Techniques de Museologie, Gestion du patrimoine naturel et culturel et developpement touristique", in progress at that time at the University of Kenitra "Ibn Tofail", were attended by some twenty graduate students of the above cited master. Some educational presentations on archaeology, GIS landscape analysis, and cultural resources management were offered by some participants to the Final Meeting. More in detail, Dr. Nespoulet and Prof. Debennah covered topics in archaeology related to their excavations in Morocco, Dr. Mulazzani presented the landscape study project of the Hergla region in Tunisia, and Mr. Genchi addressed topics related to GIS landscape analysis.

Section 3 – Consortium management

The CHERM Project consortium has gathered a conspicuous number of Euro-Mediterranean Partners, theoretically sub-divided into three thematic subjects (the Archaeo-topographical ARCHAEO-GIS team, the Anthro-Biological BIO-ARCHIVE team, and the Palaeo-geo-ecological PALAEO-ENVIRON team), but ultimately forming a cohesive partnership where contacts and exchanges are not mediated through the project activities alone. This constitutes a permanent achievement intended as an implicit outcome of the project. Scientific counterparts were involved in the project's activities according to their relevance to the subject of the meetings, stimulating new flow of participants each time, depending upon schedule and availability of funds. Decisions were taken in accordance with the contractual partner, the University of Kenitra "Ibn Tofail", and with those partners that had expressed major interest and influence in the decision making process and in the strategic planning of the project (i.e. the University of Cambridge, the Gibraltar Museum and the University of Perpignan "Via Domitia").

The contractual relationship with the Moroccan partner, the University of Kenitra "Ibn Tofail", has been positive and ruled by commonality of aims, though complicated by very different administrative practices (in the case of a Moroccan institution, further complicated by non-European standards) which have caused a delay both in the progression of the project activities, and in the management of the administrative and contractual deadlines with the EC.

The CHERM consortium gathered throughout the progression of the project has become a major point of reference for both the Maghrebian and the European counterparts, and it is aiming to maintain the research and amicable relationship that has developed during these years of coordinated activities together.

Section 4 - Publishable results

The results so far generated by the Project are at a preliminary stage of publication: depending on the continuation of the activities and on the cooperation of the partners towards the exploitation of such data, appropriate measures for the protection of the Intellectual Property Rights will be taken.

Table 1: Deliverables List

List all deliverables, giving date of submission and any proposed revision to plans.

Del. no.	Deliverable name	Workpackage no.	Date due	Actual/Forecast delivery date	Estimated indicative person-months *)	Used indicative person-months *)	Lead contractor
D1	Kick-off document	WP1	Oct. 06	Nov. 06	0.1	0.5	Uniroma1
D2	Archeo-GIS Codebook	WP2	Dec. 06	Nov. 08	2	1	Uniroma1
D3	Digital and paper forms for the field activities (archaeological and topographic survey and excavation)	WP2	Dec. 06	Nov. 08	1	0.5	Uniroma1
D4	New opportunities for inter-crossing experiences of work for both junior and senior researchers, both Europeans and Maghrebians	WP2	Dec. 06	Nov. 08	-	-	Uniroma1
D5	Minutes of the Archeo-GIS meeting	WP1	Dec. 06	Dec. 08	0.5	0.5	Uniroma1
D6	The realization of C.H.E.R.M. web-site	WP6	Feb. 07	Jul. 08-Dec. 08	2	2	Uniroma1
D7	The Maghrebian Biological Archive Inventory database	WP3	Aug. 07	Dec. 08	2	1	Uniroma1/Unipoit
D8	Guidelines for the preparation of a future Maghrebian Catalogue of the Prehistoric bio-archaeological archive	WP3	Aug. 07	Dec. 08	1	1	Uniroma1

D9	New opportunities for inter-crossing experiences of work for both junior and senior researchers, both Europeans and Maghrebians	WP3	Aug.07	Sept.07	-	-	Uniroma1
D10	Minutes of the Bio-Archaeo meeting	WP1	Sept. 07	Oct. 07	1	1	Uniroma1
D11	Translations of the documents to be digitalized	WP6	Oct. 07	Jul. 08	1	1	Uniroma1
D12	Guidelines for the approach in the palaeo-ecological studies of Maghreb Region	WP4	Nov. 07	Mar. 07	1	1	Uniroma1/Gibramus
D13	New opportunities for inter-crossing experiences of work for both junior and senior researchers, both Europeans and Maghrebians	WP4	Nov. 07	Mar. 07	-	-	Uniroma1/Gibramus
D14	Minutes of the palaeo-Environmental meeting	WP1	Dec. 07	Apr. 07	1	1	Uniroma1
D15	Ratification of the final documents	WP5	Jan. 08	Dec. 08	1	1	Unike
D16	Comments on the documents produced in the thematic meetings	WP5	Dec. 07	Dec. 08	1	1	Unike
D17	End of project meeting coordination	WP5	Jan. 08	Dec. 08	1	1	Unike
D18	Minutes of C.H.E.R.M. final meeting	WP1	Feb. 08	Dec. 08	1	1	Uniroma1

D19	Final report of the C.H.E.R.M. project	WP1	Mar. 08	Jan. 09	1	1	Uniroma1
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*) if available

Table 2: Milestones List

List all milestones, giving date of achievement and any proposed revision to plans.

Milestone no.	Milestone name	Workpackage no.	Date due	Actual/Forecast delivery date	Lead contractor
1	Updating of the Consortium Agreement	1	Dec. 06	Dec. 07	Uniroma1
2	Implementing homogeneous methodologies of approach to the study of the Prehistory of macro-regional areas of the Maghreb at archaeological and topographical scale, to be used in future research activities in the Region.	2	Jan. 07	Dec. 08	Uniroma1
3	Implementing homogeneous methodologies of approach to the study of the Prehistory of macro-regional areas of the Maghreb at anthropological and bio-archaeological scale, to be used in future research activities in the Region	3	Aug. 07	Sept. 07	Uniroma1
4	Implementing homogeneous methodologies of approach to the study of the Prehistory of macro-regional areas of the Maghreb at palaeoecological scale, to be used in future research activities in the Region	4	Oct. 07	Mar. 07	Uniroma1

5	More visibility and publicity for the activities of such Project, to be evaluated as potential impact at social and public level.	6	Feb. 07	Dec. 08	Uniroma1
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